

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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PRS-01 USIE-00 OC-05 CCO-00 WRD-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 313

UNCLAS MANILA 1452

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CGEN, RP

SUBJ: DISASTER OCCURRING IN PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 1451

1. EMBOFF VISITED PHILIPPINE AIRLINES (PAL) AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE TODAY. EXCEPT FOR TAIL SECTION, AIRCRAFT TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE. REMAINS OF THOSE KILLED IN CRASH, THEREFORE, BADLY CHARRED AND UNIDENTIFIABLE WITHOUT DENTAL CHARTS. RECOMMEND NOK OF MR. AND MRS. RIVERS BE ASKED SEND THEIR DENTAL CHARTS TO EMBASSY TO ASSIST IDENTIFICATION. BODIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO LOCAL FIRM AT MORTICIANS KNOWN AS FUNERARIA NACIONAL.

2. ATTORNEY JUSTO L. ALBERT, VICE PRESIDENT, LABOR RELATIONS, PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, IS PAL OFFICIAL IN MANILA TAKING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR POST-CRASH ARRANGEMENTS. HE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT PAL STANDS READY BRING NOK OF DECEASED PERSONS TO PHILIPPINES AT PAL EXPENSE IF REQUESTED. PAL ALSO IS OFFERING TO MEET THEIR EXPENSES WHILE IN PHILIPPINES. ALBERT SAID NOK CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS THROUGH PAL VICE PRESIDENT JUM CAPUTO IN SAN FRANCISCO.

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3. WHILE AT CRASH SITE, EMBOFF SPOKE WITH FILIPINO WHO

WITNESSED CRASH AND WHO PULLED ROGER DOUGLAS COLLINS, AMCIT, FROM AIRCRAFT. WITNESS IS REYNALDO CAO, A FORMER EMPLOYEE AT SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE. HE SAW PLANE WITH BURNING ENGINE COMING DOWN AND STATES PLANE WAS IN RIGHT TURN AT TIME OF IMPACT. RIGHT WING STRUCK GROUND FIRST AND BROKE OFF. REMAINDER OF AIRCRAFT CAME TO REST SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT BUT BURNING. CAO SAID HE COULD HEAR NUMEROUS CRIES FOR HELP FROM INSIDE AIRCRAFT. COLLINS WAS REACHABLE THROUGH A BROKEN WINDOW AND CAO PULLED HIM OUT. BEFORE CAO COULD RETURN TO PLANE, IT EXPLODED. THERE WERE, CAO SAID, THREE SEPARATE EXPLOSIONS.

4. EMBOFF PROCEEDED FROM CRASH SITE TO LAS PINAS GENERAL HOSPITAL WHERE HE SPOKE WITH HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, DR. FAUSTINO UY, WHO IS ALSO ATTENDING PHYSICIAN. AS MENTIONED SEPTEL, UY IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT COLLINS'S CHANCES OF SURVIVAL. ALSO AT HOSPITAL WAS DR. (FNU) JOCSON FROM PAL. JOCSON STATES HE PLANS FOLLOW COLLINS'S CASE CLOSELY AND, IF HIS CONDITION IMPROVES, PLANS MOVE HIM TO MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER, MAKATI, RIZAL.

5. EMBOFF PRESENTLY EN ROUTE TO COLLINS'S QUEZON CITY ADDRESS TO INFORM HIS WIFE OF CRASH AND TAKE HER TO HER HUSBAND.

6 VERY FEW EFFECTS SURVIVED CRASH. SUCH FEW ITEMS AS WERE RECOVERED ARE IN PAL'S CUSTODY. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING OBTAIN INVENTORY. SULLIVAN

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